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Letter dated 22 December 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In my capacity as the representative of the current Chairman of the African Union (AU), I have the honour to forward herewith the statement of the spokesman of the African Union mediation for the inter-Sudanese peace talks on the conflict in Darfur on the recent attack on Abu Sarouj village in Western Darfur, issued on 21 December 2005 (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Aminu Bashir **Wali**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the United Nations
Representative of the current Chairman of the African Union

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Annex to the letter dated 22 December 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Statement of the spokesman of the African Union mediation for the inter-Sudanese peace talks on the conflict in Darfur on the recent attack on Abu Sarouj village in Western Darfur

The African Union Special Envoy for Darfur and Chief Mediator, Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim, is utterly outraged by the attack on Abu Sarouj village in Western Darfur, which took place on the morning of Monday, 19 December 2005. He unequivocally condemns the unwarranted brutal killings of numerous innocent civilians, including women and children, and the destruction of their homes and property by armed militia members.

Dr. Salim considers this attack particularly deplorable as it has come at a time when intensive efforts are being made to negotiate a peaceful settlement to put an end to the conflict, and thus end the suffering of the people of Darfur.

The Special Envoy stressed that the perpetrators of these atrocious and murderous acts should be made to face the full force of the law. In this respect, he urged the Sudanese authorities and others concerned to take appropriate measures to ensure that justice is done.

At the same time, Dr. Salim called upon the Government of the Sudan and all the parties to the conflict to exert all the necessary effort to ensure the protection of the civilian population in Darfur.